



Group Volunteer Opportunities – Environmental

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation's Natural Resources division. This information will help you better understand the nature of the volunteer program and how your group, club, or organization can benefit from getting involved.

About Saint Paul Parks – Environmental Services

The City of Saint Paul's is committed to protecting, enhancing, and providing access to the city's natural resources. The Environmental Services section coordinates environmental volunteer events, conducts monitoring and research of natural resources in parks, restores and manages vital and unique ecosystems, and provides interpretation and education in the parks. In partnership with citizens and nonprofit, county, state, and national agencies, we coordinate efforts to restore and improve the natural environment in Saint Paul. With over 2,300 acres of natural areas in Saint Paul, our Environmental Services staff simply cannot do it alone.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer events are hosted by Saint Paul Parks during the spring, summer and fall months (April-November). They incorporate a variety of activities that focus on preserving, protecting, and restoring natural areas and vital ecosystems in Saint Paul. Activities include invasive species removal, prairie and tree plantings, raingarden installation, and lake shore restoration. All volunteering takes place outside and is physically active.

Two ways for your group to engage in environmental stewardship:

- Private group volunteer events: We will work with you to create a meaningful volunteer event tailored to your group. We can accommodate groups ranging from 20 to 200+, and incorporate teambuilding, training, and education. Events are typically two to three hours. All tools and materials are provided.
- Public events: individuals, groups, friends and families can participate in our public volunteer events, held April through October. These events are held approximately four to five times per season. Events are posted on our website and advanced registration is required.

Why is this work important to our region?

17 miles of the Mississippi River run through Saint Paul, and the vast majority of the river corridor is parkland. Over time, invasive plant species have severely degraded the native ecosystem along the river and in natural areas throughout the Twin Cities. This causes problems with increased erosion, poor water quality, and loss of wildlife habitat. Approximately 10 years ago, the City of Saint Paul recognized the need to address these problems and put resources into habitat restoration of the Mississippi River's critical habitat and watershed. Most projects are grant funded and staff resources are limited - thus a volunteer workforce is imperative to the success of the work.

Benefits to Volunteers:

- Directly engage in environmental stewardship and have a positive impact on our region's natural resources
- Meet, network, and work with other like-minded individuals
- Team building through cooperative problem solving
- Expand people's understanding of the natural environment surrounding them
- Learn about how the City of Saint Paul and partner organizations are working to improve and protect Saint Paul's natural heritage.

Contact:

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City of Saint Paul - Department of Parks and Recreation – Operations Section

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